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For Immediate Release: Jan. 23, 2002

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### ***Kernan Announces Grant for Ashley Industrial Molding to Study Recycling Fiberglass Composite Into Asphalt***

INDIANAPOLIS — With assistance from the Indiana Department of Commerce, Ashley Industrial Molding Inc., located in Steuben and DeKalb counties, will begin studying the viability of recycling fiberglass composite material, specifically sheet molding compound (SMC), into asphalt.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Commerce's office of Energy and Recycling has awarded Ashley Industrial Molding a \$24,000 Innovations Grant to research and test the use of SMC as a slag substitute in asphalt production. The project will also involve market and financial feasibility studies relating to the collection and recycling of SMC.

"Recycling and reuse is a vital segment of our economy and the impact of projects such as this will resonate into future generations," said Kernan, director of the Department of Commerce. "The research that Ashley conducts because of this grant will bring them closer to production and further from pollution."

Sheet molding compound (SMC) manufacturers, including Ashley Industrial Molding, located in Ashley, Ind., produce scrap from their production processes that currently goes to landfills. While producers have worked hard to reduce the overall amount of scrap they generate, Ashley estimates that it's losing thousands of dollars per year on SMC waste.

Ashley's SMC scrap cannot currently be recycled back into the manufacturing process, but the company is seeking ways to improve its environmental citizenship, reduce its disposal costs and ultimately produce a viable end use for SMC scrap. The company will work with Heritage Research Group and an asphalt producer to test the use of SMC in asphalt and determine the financial feasibility of this use.

Partnering with other SMC producers in the area, Ashley hopes to expand the scope of the project. If the testing of SMC use in asphalt produces positive results, Ashley will then examine how to best create a collection and processing infrastructure. The company hopes this project will result in the ability to recycle 100 percent of its SMC scrap, as well as most scrap produced by other area SMC producers.

The Innovations Grant Program provides assistance to Indiana businesses undertaking a research, development or implementation project that promotes the economical use of secondary recycled materials or source reduction in manufacturing processes. Up to \$100,000 is available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews grant proposals and determines awards. Housed in Commerce's Community Development division, the office of Energy and Recycling administers the program. For more information on recycling programs, please contact Tiffany Sorge at 317.232.8940 or visit the Web site at [www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov](http://www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov).

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